

REMARKS

Claims 3-12, 14, 15, 18-21, and 23-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, and 23 are independent claims.

The Examiner's statement that claims 23-27 are allowed is acknowledged.

Claims 3-12, 14, 15, 18 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 21 have been amended accordingly. Claims 8-9 depend from amended claim 7 and claim 12 depends from amended claim 10. As such, allowance of claims 3-12, 14, 15, 18 and 21 is respectfully requested.

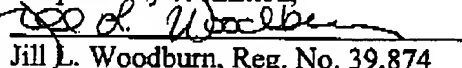
Claims 1, 2, 13, 16, 17, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuypers (EP 0396788 A1). Claims 1-2, 13, 16, 17, and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuypers (EP 0396788 A1). As discussed above, claim 18 has been amended to include limitations of its base claim and intervening claim. Claims 19 and 20 depend from allowable claim 18. In light of the amendment to claim 18, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of dependent claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

The claims as submitted herein are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. In addition, it is requested that if necessary, that this paper be considered a request for an extension of time and that all fees due be charged to Deposit Account Number 02-2958 with reference to (BMID 9916 US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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